

School House, MARSH'S SETTLEMENT
Lake County
(Marsh's Settlement) Illinois
MUNICIPALITY

HABS Ill. 140.

HABS
ILL.,
49-MUND,
1-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

SCHOOL HOUSE

Marsh's Settlement, Illinois

Owner:

Date of Erection: 1840.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Condition: Poor. Original woodshed with a lean-to roof and the platform at front of school and brick chimney have been removed.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation, with red brick walls, logs for joists with a soft wood flooring. walls of yellow pine, plastered walls, ceiling and wood wainscot.

Other Existing Records: Photographs.

Additional Data: (See following pages)

SCHOOL HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY
MARSH'S SETTLEMENT, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT NO. ILL. 1.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. Ill. 140

Vincent Viscariello

SOURCE

History of This school is located on Section
Lake County #24, Freemont Township, northwest quarter
1877 p. 285 of District #75.

Halsey

History of Mr. Meyer established the date as
Lake County about 1840, if not previous to this time.
1912 p. 434 The building was first used as a community
George Meyer school, for which it was originally intended.

Mundelein,
Illinois.

The property on which the building stands was given over for school purposes with the stipulation that, should the school cease to exist at some future date, the property as well as the building was to revert to the original estate. It has ceased being used as a school since about 1890. Mr. Meyer is of the opinion that the building once faced north on its present location and some minor change had been made, but none that would have marred its original design. The original woodshed with a lean-to roof and the platform at the front of the school which was at one time used as an unloading platform have been removed, as has also the brick chimney which came to the ceiling line only.

The building is erected over a stone foundation, with red brick walls to the floor line and logs composing the joists on which a soft wood flooring is laid. The rest of the building is of yellow pine, plastered walls, ceiling and wood wainscot. Plaster walls painted black to a height of three feet above the wainscot were used as blackboards. The original platform for the teacher's desk has been removed. The plan consists of a single room fronted by two coat rooms.

Since Highway #176 was built the building has stood slightly on State property

and it is to be reset on the Meyer estate to be used as a possible work shop.

Mrs. Brainard.

Mrs. Brainard, a sister of Mr. Meyer now residing in Ivanhoe, Ill., about one mile west of the school and the estate, corroborated her brother's statements and established the date of the building as previous to 1840.

Mr. Vickery

Mr. Vickery, now 76 years old, the oldest resident of the district, stated that the school was on the present site long before he was born. He felt that there are no definite records relating to the school since none were kept in those days. The original owner of the property was probably Mr. Moses Farnsworth, and it was he who donated the section of land for school purposes. The town, as far back as he can recall, was called "Mechanics Grove". He established the school as previous to 1858.

Mrs. Bessie Dunne
Circuit Court
Waukegan,
Illinois

Mrs. Dunne who has taken a keen interest in the history of Lake County and is the best authority on it, has established the date of the building as 1839, as records which she has compiled indicate that the first school house in Marsh's Settlement (which later became known as "Mechanics Grove") was this building, and Laura B. Sprague was its first teacher.

To substantiate this, Lake County was first settled by Capt. Wright in 1833. He settled at Aux Plaines River, now the town of Vernon, about 7½ miles south of Mundelein and built the first log cabin in the county. The first settlement of the county was made in 1834 and Daniel Marsh was the leader of this settlement which took his name. The present house which now stands on the estate was built in 1839 and the school just previous to that date. All church and community meetings between the years 1834 and 1839 were held alternately in the homes of the members of the community.

By Wiscariello

Approved Emil M. M. M.